

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed April 29, 2004. Claims 52-83 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. Claims 52, 59, 71, 79 and 83 are currently being amended. Claims 52-83 remain for the Examiner's consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

Claims 52-83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,374,941 to Okress (hereafter "Okress") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,494,940 to Hak (hereafter "Hak") and U.S. Patent No. 6,149,717 to Satyapal et al. (hereafter "Satyapal").

Claims 52-58

Claim 52, as amended, requires:

"first and second vertically elongated walls adjacent said germicidal lamp, said first wall located between said first air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said first air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitted from said lamp, said second wall located between said second air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said second air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitter from said lamp;

wherein said second wall is attached to said removable panel so that access is provided to said germicidal lamp when said panel is removed from said housing; and

wherein said louvers defining said first air vent are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, and said louvers defining said second air vent are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, so as to not significantly impede air entering said housing and exiting said housing through said air vents."

Okress does not include any of the above mentioned features. More specifically, Okress clearly does not include "first and second vertically elongated walls adjacent said germicidal lamp, said first wall located between said first air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said first air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitted from said lamp, said second wall located between said second air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said second air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitter from said lamp"

as required by claim 52. Further, Okress clearly does not teach or suggest that "said second wall is attached to said removable panel so that access is provided to said germicidal lamp when said panel is removed from said housing" as required by claim 52. Additionally, the louvers 18 and 20 of Okress are not "generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another ... so as to not significantly impede air entering said housing and exiting said housing through said air vents," as required by claim 52. Rather, the louvers 18 and 20 of Okress are angled or bent, as shown in Fig. 1, to prevent ultraviolet radiation from passing from within the housing 12 (see Okress, column 2, lines 41-46). Such bent louvers 18 and 20 of Okress are not "generally planer," as required by claim 52. Further, because of their geometry, such bent louvers 18 and 20 will impede airflow entering and exiting the housing 12 through the inlet 14 and the outlet 16 of Okress.

Hak does not teach or suggest the deficiencies of Okress. More specifically, Hak does not appear to have a "first wall located between said first air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said first air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitted from said lamp" as required by claim 52. Further, Hak does not appear to include a "second wall located between said second air vent and said lamp to prevent a user from looking through said second air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitter from said lamp; wherein said second wall is attached to said removable panel so that access is provided to said germicidal lamp when said panel is removed from said housing" as required by claim 52. Additionally, the louvers of the outlet grill 106 of Hak are not "generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another ... so as to not significantly impede air entering and exiting said housing through said air vents" as required by claim 52. Rather, the outlet grill 106 of Hak includes a louver assembly 118 that prevents "passage of potentially harmful UV light supplied from the lamp 88 through the air outlet 37." (see Hak, column 7, lines 37-63). More specifically, the louver assembly 118 includes blades 136 each having "a concave surface 150 and a convex surface 152" that is arranged in such a manner that an "overlapping relationship defines a plurality of convoluted paths or channels 153 extending through the louver assembly 118 and thereby prevents the passage of ultraviolet light through a direct linear path." (see Hak, column 8, lines 18-28 and FIGS. 8 and 9). Such blades 136 of Hak are not "generally planer," as required by claim 52. Further, because of their geometry, such blades 136 will impede airflow exiting the housing 12 through air outlet 37 of Hak.

Satyapal clearly does not teach the above mentioned deficiencies of Okress and Hak.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claim 52, and its dependent claims 53-58 be withdrawn.

Claims 59 - 70

Claim 59, as amended, requires:

"a removable panel, securable to said housing, and within which is defined said inlet, said panel including a first side that faces said interior of said housing and a second side that faces away from said housing when said panel is secured to said housing;

...

a wall attached to said first side of said removable panel, said wall arranged to prevent a user from directly looking through said inlet and directly viewing UV radiation emitted from said lamp when said panel is secured to said housing;

wherein said lamp is accessible to a user when said removable panel and said attached wall are removed from said housing;

wherein said inlet is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another so as to not significantly impede air entering said housing through said inlet; and

wherein said outlet is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, so as to not significantly impede air exiting said housing through said outlet"

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regards to claim 52, Applicants assert that claim 59 is patentable over Okress, Hak and Satyapal, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claim 59, and its dependent claims 60-70, be withdrawn.

Claims 71-78

Claim 71, as amended, requires:

"a removable panel, adapted to be secured to said housing, and within which is defined said inlet, said panel including a first side that faces said interior of said housing and a second side that faces away from said housing when said panel is secured to said housing;

...
a germicidal lamp positioned within said interior of said housing such a user looking through said inlet or said outlet cannot directly view UV radiation emitted from said lamp; and

...
wherein said lamp is accessible to a user when said removable panel is removed from said housing; and

wherein said inlet is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another so as to not significantly impede air entering said housing through said inlet; and

wherein said outlet is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, so as to not significantly impede air exiting said housing through said outlet."

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regards to claim 52, Applicants assert that claim 71 is patentable over Okress, Hak and Satyapal, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claim 71, and its dependent claims 72-78, be withdrawn.

Claims 79 - 82

Claim 79, as amended, requires:

"a removable panel, adapted to be secured to said housing, and within which is defined said second air vent, said panel including a first side that faces said interior of said housing and a second side that faces away from said housing when said panel is secured to said housing;

...
a vertically elongated wall adjacent said germicidal lamp, said wall arranged to prevent a user from looking through said second air vent and directly viewing UV radiation emitted from said lamp;

wherein access is provided to said germicidal lamp when said panel and said wall are removed from said housing; and

wherein said first air vent is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, and said second air vent is defined by a plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another, so as to not significantly impede air entering and exiting said housing through said first air vent and said second air vent."

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regards to claim 52, Applicants assert that claim 79 is patentable over Okress, Hak and Satyapal, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claim 79, and its dependent claims 80-82, be withdrawn.

Claim 83

Claim 83, as amended, requires:

"a removable panel, adapted to be secured to said housing, and within which is defined one of said air vents, said panel including a first side that faces said interior of said housing and a second side that faces away from said housing when said panel is secured to said housing;

...

a germicidal lamp positioned within said interior of said housing such a user looking through said air vents cannot directly view UV radiation emitted from said lamp; and

...

wherein said lamp is accessible to a user when said removable panel is removed from said housing; and

wherein said air vents are each defined by a respective plurality of louvers that are generally planer and extend in a direction generally parallel to one another so as to not significantly impede air entering and exiting said housing through said air vents."

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regards to claim 52, Applicants assert that claim 83 is patentable over Okress, Hak and Satyapal, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claim 83 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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